

## THE ROSE CEREMONY (may be added to any other ceremony)

In more elegant days, flowers were used as a means of communication, and each flower had a special meaning. A single red rose always meant "I love you". The Rose ceremony gives recognition to the new and most honourable title of "Husband and Wife".

This ceremony originates in a classic rose ceremony from a lost and elegant age. Though the words of the classic Rose ceremony long ago lost, this ceremony was rewritten by the Hon. Mark Ovard explaining the true meaning of the ceremony - and in ways that can endure through your married life together - this is a unique and meaningful addition to any marriage ceremony - that also inspires your guests too.

In this ceremony, the Bride and Groom give each other a Rose. Only two roses are needed.

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### Words of the Rose Ceremony:

"Your gift to each other for your wedding today has been your wedding rings - which shall always be an outward demonstration of your vows of love and respect; and a public showing of your commitment to each other.

You now have what remains the most honorable title which may exist between a man and a woman - the title of "husband" and "wife." For your first gift as husband and wife, that gift will be a single rose.

In the past, the rose was considered a symbol of love and a single rose always meant only one thing - it meant the words "I love you." So it is appropriate that for your first gift - as husband and wife - that gift would be a single rose.

*Please exchange your first gift as husband and wife.*

(Sometimes a couple will play a special song at this point).

In some ways it seems like you have not done anything at all. Just a moment ago you were holding one small rose - and now you are holding one small rose. In some ways, a marriage ceremony is like this. In some ways, tomorrow is going to seem no different than yesterday. But in fact today, just now, you both have given and received one of the most valuable and precious gifts of life - one I hope you always remember - the gift of true and abiding love within the devotion of marriage.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, I would ask that wherever you make your home in the future - whether it be a large and elegant home - or a small and graceful one - that you both pick one very special location for roses; so that on each anniversary of this truly wonderful occasion you both may take a rose to that spot both as a recommitment to your marriage - and a recommitment that THIS will be a marriage based upon love.

In every marriage there are times where it is difficult to find the right words.

It is easiest to hurt who we most love. It is easiest to be most hurt by who we most love.

It might be difficult sometime to words to say "I am sorry" or "I forgive you"; "I need you" or "I am hurting". If this should happen, if you simply can not find these words, leave a rose at that spot which both of you have selected - for that rose than says what matters most of all and should overpower all other things and all other words. That rose says the words: "I still love you."

The other should accept this rose for the words which can not be found, and remember the love and hope that you both share today.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, if there is anything you remember of this marriage ceremony, it is that it was love that brought you here today, it is only love which can make it a glorious union, and it is by love which your marriage shall endure."

**Note:** If this is a remarriage and the couple want minor children to feel included, the end of this ceremony is an excellent place to do so by adding a comment like, "\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ also wish to give roses to each of their children to symbolize their love and commitment to each of them." The parents then distribute a rose to each child.

Source: 'Rose Ceremony' from [www.revshipe.com/id11.html](http://www.revshipe.com/id11.html) or [www.usabride.com/wedplan/a\\_rose\\_ceremony.html](http://www.usabride.com/wedplan/a_rose_ceremony.html)